water quality monitoring stations have been set up. Monitoring data on air and water quality are documented.

ix. A programme for phasing out of lead content in petrol is under implementation. Unleaded petrol with catalytic converter fitted vehicles has been introduced in four metropolitan cities to begin with.

x. More stringent norms for vehicular emissions have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

xi. Ministry of Surface Transport has been asked to instruct Delhi Transport Corporation that polluting buses and those under lease by the State Transport Authorities should not outshed from 1st January, 1996.

News-Report captioned "Several Species Facing Extinction"

40. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the News-report captioned "Several Species facing extinction" appearing in "The Statesman" dated December 23, 1996;

(b) if so, the comparative figures of population of each of the endangered species as per figures of last three censuses; and

(c) the steps taken and proposed to be taken to preserve and promote the endangered species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The comparative figures of last three censuses of major endangered species is given below :

S. No.	Name of Species	Year 1984	1989	1993
1.	Tiger	4005	4334	3759
2.	Leopard	4744	6763	6828
3.	Elephant	18960 (1985)	17635 Min to 24090 Max.	22796 Min to 28346 Max.
4.	Rhinos	N.A.	1591	1566 (1995)
5.	Lion	239 (1985)	284 (1990)	304 (1995)

(c) A number of steps are being taken to conserve endangered species. These include: Providing legal protection against hunting and commercial exploitation under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972; providing assistance to the States for development of national parks and sanctuaries; implementing special projects for endangered species such as Tiger, Elephants, Rhino etc; controlling poaching and illegal trade of wildlife through interdepartmental co-ordination and providing antipoaching infrastructure in specified.

Sea Turtles in Orissa affected by Defence Projects

41. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Defence projects on the Orissa Coast would jeopardies the nesting of a variety of sea turtles; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to dissuade the Defence Research and Development Organisation not to indulge in any activity that was likely to affect the turtles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) and (b) The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DP.DO) has established an Interim Test Range, at Chandipur in Bhadrak District of Orissa. The project has been cleared under the Forest